(c) what are the reasons for poor standard of Indian Universities; and

(d) what steps are being taken to upgrade the standards of Indian Universities, to bring them at par with foreign Universities of International repute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (d) Surveys made by periodicals are usually not based on universally accepted parameters endorsed by an international body such as UNESCO etc. They, therefore, have limited value. The Government, however, is fully conscious of the generic issue of quality upgradation in higher education. Towards this end, assessment and accreditation has now been made obligatory for all universities and colleges. Other aspects of a qualitative nature including curricula updating, improving IT facilities, induction and inservice training of teachers, adherence to a minimum level of working days and teaching hours are being focused upon.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF WOMEN

2818. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) by when Government are going to bring before Parliament a Bill pertaining to sexual harassment of women at work place;

(b) what are the salient features of the Bill;

(c) whether any consultations have been made with State Government; and

(d) if so, the details of such consultations and the reaction of State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SUMITRA

MAHAJAN): (a) The National Commission for Women (NCW) is drafting a Bill on sexual harassment of women at work place. The drafting of the Bill is at present in a preliminary stage. The Bill can be brought before the Parliament only when it is finalised in consultation with all concerned.

(b) Salient features can only be informed about when the Bill is finalised.

(c) and (d) NCW has informed that it has held some consultations with State Commissions for Women while drafting the Bill. No consultations have been made with the State Governments as yet since the Bill is at initial stage.

GRADUATE ENGINEERS

2819. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate number of Graduate Engineers passing out every year in the country;

(b) whether India has enough infrastructure to absorb all of them;

(c) the measures taken to provide employment to all the graduate engineers, to solve the unemployment problem; and

(d) whether Government would also encourage them to set up small scale industries by providing liberal loans; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) grants approval for intake of students in engineering colleges throughout the country. However, admissions to engineering colleges are done by respective State Level Committees. Therefore, the detail of students eventually passing out from more than thousand enginering colleges, affiliated to different universities throughout the